

# St. Therese Catholic Church

December 26, 2021 **Ministered by the Discalced Carmelite Friars** Est. 1924  
510 North El Molino Street | Alhambra CA 91801 | (626) 282-2744 | [www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org](http://www.StThereseChurchAlhambra.org)

## OFFICE HOURS | CONTACTS

**Monday – Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm-5:00 pm**

**Pastor:** Fr. Thomas Koller, OCD X222

**Associate Pastor:** Fr. David Guzman, OCD X232

**In Residence:** Fr. Albert Bunsic, OCD;

Fr. Bernard Perkins, OCD X225; Bro. Jason Parrott, OCD;  
Fr. Godfrey Chandya, OCD

**Deacons:** Dcn Joseph Mizerski | Dcn Gilbert Vargas X333;

**Annulments:** Deacon Gilbert Vargas X333

**Vocations:** For the Archdiocese: (213) 637-7515

For the Carmelites: [www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com](http://www.discalcedcarmelitefriars.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Denise McMaster-Holguin X223

[denisekay@hotmail.com](mailto:denisekay@hotmail.com)

**Finance:** Noralyn Cailan X228 / [cailannocds@gmail.com](mailto:cailannocds@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Paula Grimm | [pgrimm.dir@gmail.com](mailto:pgrimm.dir@gmail.com)

**Respect Life Ministry:** Catherine Contreras X112

## MASSES | CONFESSIONS

**Masses—Saturday:** 8:00 a.m. & Vigil at 5:00 p.m.

**Sundays** at 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

And Traditional Latin High Mass at 1:00 p.m.

**Monday-Friday Masses:** 6:00 and 8:00 a.m.

(the daily 8:00 a.m., the Sunday 11:00 a.m., and the weekday 7:00 p.m. Masses are **LIVE STREAMED** on Facebook AND YouTube); **Rosary: Mon-Sat after 8:00 a.m. Mass**

**Masses on Monday, \*Tuesday (\*Spanish), Wednesday & Thursday EVENINGS at 7:00 p.m.** (Tues. and Thurs. are preceded by a showing of The Chosen, Season 2, from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m.); **First Friday Mass: 7:00 p.m.**

**CONFESSIONS (OUTSIDE)-Wednesdays** from 8:00

to 9:00 p.m.; Saturdays from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.

and Sundays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Carmelite Cloister: 7:30 a.m., Monday-Saturday**



“When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.”  
(Luke 2:39-40)

## ST. THERESE CARMELITE SCHOOL

(626) 289-3364

[www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com](http://www.SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com)

Principal: Alma Cornejo X661

[principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com](mailto:principal@sainttheresecarmeliteschool.com)



## SACRAMENTS

- Baptisms: Register online
- Weddings: Register online at least six months in advance
- Anointing of the Sick: Call the office

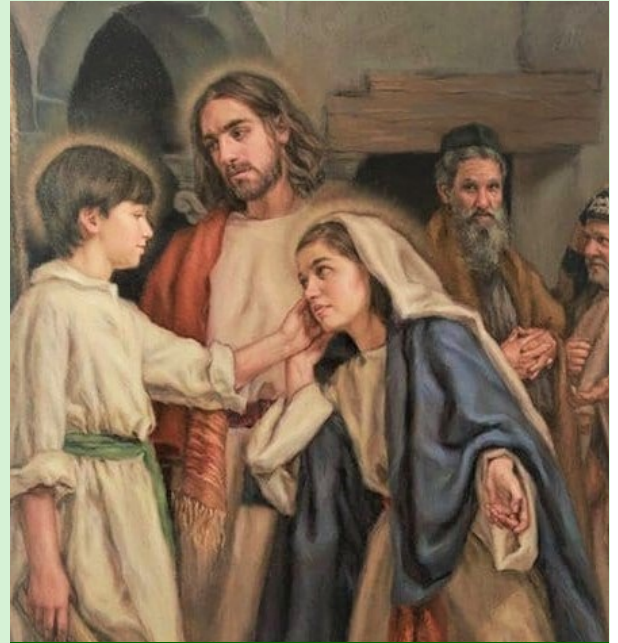
# FROM OUR PASTOR

Christ is born for us!

**Glorify Him!!! Mary ChristMass and Merry Christmas and Blessed Feast of the Holy Family, everyone!**

**FAMILY = F-orget A-bout M-e; I L-ove Y-ou!!!—  
(NOT: FAYILM = "forget about you; I love me").**

I hope and pray that each and every one of you is already experiencing that Jesus came, is coming, and will come just-for-you, as if there were no other human being He had ever created except YOU!!! He wants to be closer to you than you are to yourself. "When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from Heaven's royal throne" (Wisdom Chapter 8, Entrance Antiphon for Dec. 30)... because He was so eager to save us from our sins, heal our wounds, and share His Trinitarian Family Love Life with you and your family and loved ones—right in the middle of our sins and wounds, no matter what kind of difficulties we are going through. "When God sees sin, He sees pain in us" (St. Julian of Norwich). Christmas is for those who are aware that they can't save themselves, can't heal themselves, are aching and longing for a Savior, and who receive Him when He comes....RIGHT NOW. The Lord Jesus gave us Himself, fully human without ceasing to be fully Divine, One Divine Person fully Himself while becoming a little eight- to ten-pound baby in a feeding trough, so that you and I, fully human, could become Divine by participation, by sharing in His Divine Nature beginning with Baptism and nourished with His own Body and Blood, as He was nourished by His Mother's own body and blood.



After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him, they were astonished, and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what He said to them (Luke 2:47-50).

Fraternally in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
Fr. Thomas

**P. S. Here is a little Christmas story called, "For Always," by Will Fish:**

In 1994, two Americans answered an invitation from the Russian Department of Education to teach a Morals and Ethics class (based on biblical principles) in the public schools. They were invited to teach at prisons, businesses, fire and police departments, and at a large orphanage with about 100 boys and girls. These children had been abused and then abandoned in the government-run orphanage. It was nearing the holiday season, and the orphans heard for the first time the traditional story of Christmas. The story continues in the words of the two Americans:

**(PLEASE GO TO PAGE SIX FOR THE REST OF THE STORY.)**

*We pray you  
have a happy,  
and holy  
New Year!*



## NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:

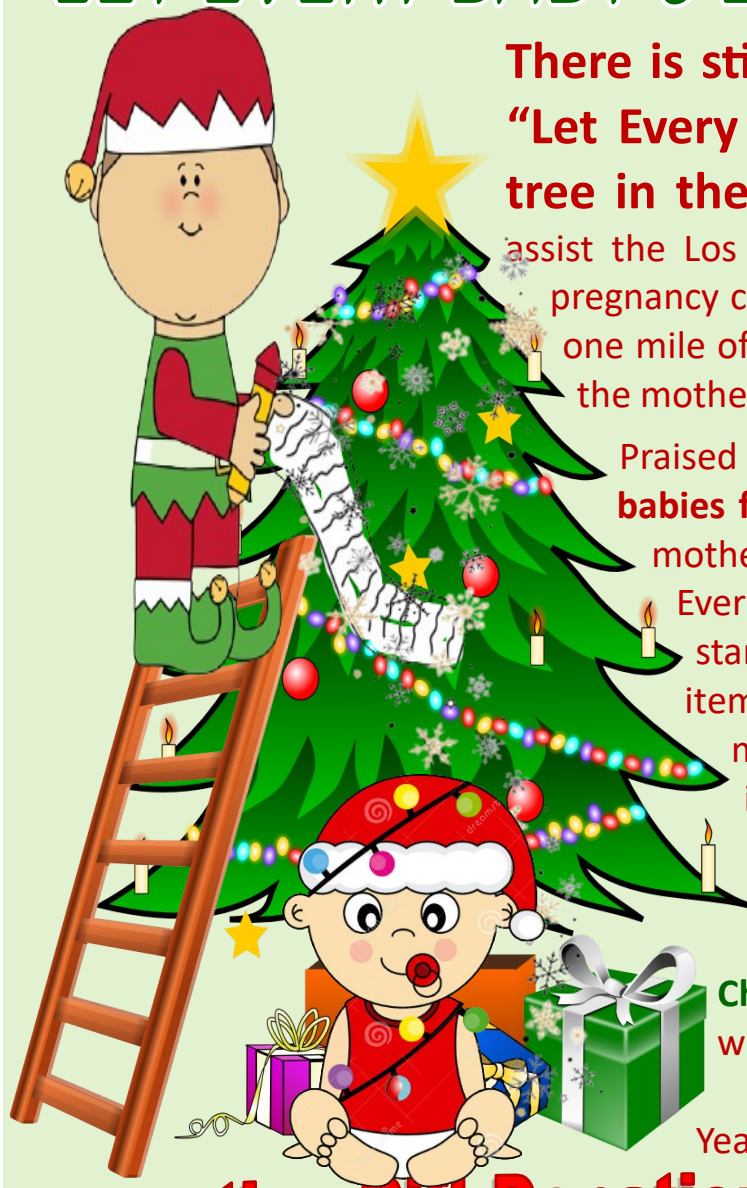
New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31:  
7:00 p.m. Vigil

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1:  
10:00 a.m.

### PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

**Heavenly Father**, thank you for making all things new! Help me to be aware of your presence throughout each day and fill me with a desire to know you more deeply. Guard my mind and train my heart to seek your will. **Jesus, my Savior**, I put my trust in you—you who have placed my burdens onto your own shoulders! Thank you for the lessons you've taught me this past year. **Holy Spirit**, lead me each step of this New Year and enlighten me to know which of life's doors I should open and which I should close. Help me to release my grip on the things to which you've said "no," or "not yet." **Holy Trinity**, keep me far from the snares of the devil and whisper in my ear when I should flee and when I should stand my ground. Place your hands around my family and friends to protect them and give them discernment and insight to also understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways. Amen.

# "LET EVERY BABY'S LIGHT SHINE" TREE



**There is still time to take a star from the “Let Every Baby's Light Shine” Christmas tree in the church!** All the gifts you purchase will assist the Los Angeles Pregnancy Services (LAPS). This pregnancy center has nine abortion businesses within one mile of it. Let us help them as they work to help the mothers in need!

**Praised be Jesus Christ! LAPS has saved over 135 babies from abortion this year!** Let us also assist mothers who have said “Yes” to Life. The “Let Every Baby's Light Shine” Christmas tree has star ornaments on it, each of which has baby items written on it—items needed to help mothers who considered abortion, but instead said “Yes”

to Life. **Please take a tag from the tree and purchase the listed items and then place them (unwrapped!) under the Christmas tree by January 1st.** These items will then be delivered by Vox Vitae teens to LAPS the first week of the New Year. God bless you for caring!

## **Accepting Gift Donations through January 1!**

### FLYERS IN THE CHURCH

Please do NOT post or remove any flyers in the church without first getting permission by the Parish Staff or by Fr. Thomas. For the second time, we have had some flyers removed from the vestibule that had been posted there by Fr. Thomas. No one has the right to do this; doing this is tantamount to destruction of property and is a serious offense.

Your cooperation and respect will be much appreciated.

### THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Everyone is invited to come and learn more about St. John Paul's Theology of the Body by attending this series (facilitated by Fr. Thomas). We meet on the SECOND and FOURTH Fridays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the Guadalupe Courtyard of the Parish Offices. Included in the series is audio, video, and Power Point presentations, as well as discussion and prayer. You are also welcome to join us VIA ZOOM. The Personal Meeting ID Number is 846 381 4560 and the Passcode is yaCsG6.

# SCHOOL NEWS



The School is CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION until Monday, January 3.

## Fasting from the Wound of False-Burden Bearing

### PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK:

“Each will bear his own load” (Galatians 6:5).

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Today I choose to fast from the wound of false-burden bearing. If you're a parent, at some point you've likely been more concerned about your children being ready for a big test than they themselves were. You might have hovered over them or badgered them to study and prepare. Your concern and personal investment were far greater than theirs. This is an example of false-burden bearing. We might justify it as mercy or diligence, but we are really taking on the cares, concerns, and responsibilities that rightly belong to someone else. This wound can masquerade as compassion, but it's really a form of confusion: “I cannot tell the difference between what is mine and what is yours.”



### False - Burden Bearing

At deeper levels of hurt, abuse victims will blame themselves for what was done to them, or family members will blame themselves for a loved one's suicide. False-burden bearing often connects to other faulty beliefs and emotions related to guilt and shame. It is a form of codependency, where we believe that we are somehow responsible for the outcomes of other peoples decisions, and we will do everything in our power to save the other person. Let's work through this a little bit as we reflect on the passages in the dark green box above and then recite the prayer below.

Pray slowly... Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce false-burden bearing and repent all the ways in which I have sinned because of it, particularly in not loving authentically and by getting in the way of your work. I reject all forms of false-burden bearing in my life. I renounce any lies that I have come to believe, including lies such as “I can fix them” or “it's my responsibility.” I renounce any companion emotions such as confusion and double-mindedness. Send your Holy Spirit to speak the truth to my heart that I might have the “mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16). Amen.

The above is taken from the book, *Lenten Healing*, by Ken Kniepmann—available for sale in the parish office.

## FINANCIAL OFFERINGS

May God reward you for giving from your heart! Below you will find the total collection for last weekend, as well as for the previous four weekends. Note: There is a second collection on the 2ND WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH for our School.

The totals for the weekend of December 18/19 & Christmas will be available in the bulletin of January 9.

November 20/21.....	\$17,923.00
November 27/28.....	\$13,078.00
December 4/5.....	\$17,540.00
December 11/12 .....	\$31,382.00

CHECK USERS: Please use a donation envelope in order to more easily credit your account.



## FORMED: THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

Fr. Thomas has purchased a subscription to the Catholic media website, *FORMED*, as a gift for Our Parish. PLEASE be sure to make use of it and share it with your family. This “True Catholic” streaming service has so much to offer for Catholics of all ages, and will bring you and your family closer to our Faith.

To get started, go to our website home page and scroll down to find the logo in the center column. Click on the image and then enter your name, your email address, a password, and your zip code—and get started enjoying movies, programs, talks, audio dramas, and popular e-books—all just a link away!

## "FOR ALWAYS" By Will Fish (Cont. from page Two)

We told the children about Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem. Finding no room in the inn, the couple went to a stable, where the baby Jesus was born and placed in a manger. Throughout the story, the children and orphanage staff sat in amazement as they listened. Some sat on the edges of their stools, trying to grasp every word. Completing the story, we gave the children three small pieces of cardboard to make a crude manger. Each child was given a small paper square cut from yellow napkins I had brought with me (no colored paper was available in the city). Following the instructions, the children tore the paper and carefully laid strips in the manger for straw. Small squares of flannel, cut from a worn-out nightgown that an American lady threw away as she left Russia, were used for the baby's blanket. A doll-like baby was cut from tan felt that we had brought from the United States.

The orphans were busy assembling their mangers as I walked among them to see if they needed any help. All went well until I got to one table where little Misha sat—he looked to be about six years old and had finished his project. As I looked at the little boy's manger, I was startled to see not one, but two babies in the manger. Quickly, I called for the translator to ask the lad why there were two babies in the manger. Crossing his arms in front of him and looking at his completed manger scene, the child began to repeat the story very seriously. For such a young boy who had only heard the Christmas story once, he related the happenings accurately—until he came to the part where Mary put the baby Jesus in the manger. Then Misha started to ad-lib. He made up his own ending to the story as he said, "And when Mary laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him I have no mama and I have no papa, so I don't have any place to stay. Then Jesus told me I could stay with Him. But I told Him I couldn't, because I didn't have a gift to give Him like everybody else did. But I wanted to stay with Jesus so much so I thought maybe if I kept Him warm that would be a good gift. So I asked Jesus, "If I keep you warm, will that be a good enough gift?" And Jesus told me, "If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me." So, I got into the manger and then Jesus looked at me and told me I could stay with Him—for always."

As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears that splashed down his little cheeks. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed. The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon nor abuse him, someone who would stay with him—for always.



# Mass Intentions

**December 25, 2021, to  
January 1, 2022**

**Saturday evening:**  
5:00 p.m.: NO MASS

**Sunday:**

- \*7:30 a.m.: Joseph Can & Maria Hai Dang, RIP
- 7:30 a.m.: Goh and Cheah Families, INT
- 9:00 a.m.: Parishioners
- 11:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 1
- 1:00 p.m.: Archbishop Jose Gomez, INT
- 5:00 p.m.: Fr. Thinh Van Nguyen, INT

**Monday:**

- 6:00 a.m.: Fr. Gerald Kumar, INT
- \*7:30 a.m.: Deceased Religious, Relatives and Beneficiaries of the Disc. Carmelite Order
- 8:00 a.m.: Clyde Sookhan B-Day INT
- 7:00 p.m.: Christmas Novena 2

**Tuesday:**

- 6:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 3
- \*7:30 a.m.: Arturo Esteban, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Ray & Nicole Tittmann, 24th Anniv
- 7:00 p.m.: Mother Brenda OCD & Comm, INT

**Wednesday:**

- 6:00 a.m.: Mary Rose Go/Patrick Rosal INT
- \*7:30 a.m.: Linda Kay Hesse, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 4
- 7:00 p.m.: Souls in Purgatory

**Thursday:**

- 6:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena 5
- \*7:30 a.m.: Deceased Religious, Relatives and Beneficiaries of the Disc. Carmelite Order
- 8:00 a.m.: Fr. Thaddeus Bui Cong Hien Linh INT
- 7:00 p.m.: Dominic Chau Cung Bach RIP

**Friday:**

- 6:00 a.m.: Carmina & Julius Doria, INT
- \*7:30 a.m.: Mary DeSantis, RIP
- 8:00 a.m.: Delia Lorenzo, B-Day, INT
- 7:00 p.m.: Christmas Novena 6 and Arenas Ortega Family

**Saturday Morning**

- \*7:30 a.m.: Carmelite Community
- 8:00 a.m.: All Souls

**\*Held at the Cloistered  
Carmelite Chapel 215 E  
Alhambra Rd, Alhambra  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Mon.-Sat.**

## LIVE STREAMED MASSES:

The 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass (Monday—Saturday), the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, and the 7:00 p.m. weekday Masses are live streamed on Facebook AND YouTube (for those unable to attend due to illness, etc.).

Links to those two sites are on our website's home page (in the top left column).

# Quiet Listening Prayer

**From *The Living Flame of Love*  
By St. John of the Cross**

During this time of the betrothal and expectation of marriage and the anointings of the Holy Spirit, when the ointments preparatory for union with God are more sublime, the anxieties of the caverns of the soul are usually extreme and delicate.



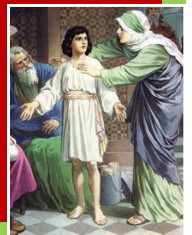
Since these ointments are a more proximate preparation for union with God (for they are more closely related to God and consequently lure the soul and make it relish Him more delicately), the desire for Him becomes more refined and profound—and the desire for God is the preparation for union with God.

(Stanza 3, No. 26)

## DID YOU NOT KNOW?

A child's first words are usually a source of excitement and joy for family members. Today we hear the first words of Jesus in the Gospel according to Luke. And they are challenging ones. "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

The words "astounded," "astonished," and "great anxiety" are used to describe Jesus' extended visit to the Temple. How familiar those emotions are to most parents! Had Jesus' parents forgotten the angel Gabriel's words or the prophecy of Simeon? In Luke's Gospel this passage foreshadows Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem where He will experience His own Passover and again be "lost" for three days. The story of Hannah in the first reading confirms the need and nature of trusting in God's activity in our lives. It seems clear that faithful attention to a family's spiritual life is no guarantee that life will be free from hardship.



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